

## PWABC CHAPTER AWARDS -

Purpose: To Nominate Colleen Ettinger for the Women's Public Works Ambassador Award

### Employment History of Colleen Ettinger:

Colleen Ettinger started her working career in 1976 at the age of 19 at the Bell Copper Mine at Granisle, BC. Bell Copper was an open pit mine where she worked for 4 years. In that time she learned to operate all of the mining equipment in the pit which included: ore trucks, loaders, graders, D8 Bulldozers and the "shovel". Colleen was one of the first three women hired to work in an open pit mine at that time. In 1980, Equity Silver mine opened in Houston and Colleen left Bell Copper to start as an equipment operator at Equity Silver. She worked at Equity Silver until they closed in about 1989.

From 1989 to 1991 Colleen drove gravel truck for a local logging contractor.

In the early winter of 1991, Colleen started working for the District of Houston in parks and recreation. She started working at the Claude Parish Memorial Arena where she ran the Zamboni during the winter months. In the summer she maintained the various community parks (mowing lawns, planting trees). Over the years she was involved in the development of new community parks. She also was involved with the construction of the amphitheater, the skate board park, the new cemetery and countless other improvements in Houston.

In 1998 she transferred to the Public works department as an equipment operator. Colleen worked on road maintenance in the winter and infrastructure projects throughout the community during the summer. In 2005 Colleen accepted a management position as Assistant Director of Public Works for the District of Houston. In 2009 Colleen was promoted to Public Works Superintendent. For the next seven years she managed both the public works crew and parks and recreation crew. She was involved in planning and overseeing many infrastructure projects. She was also involved in disaster management during floods, windstorms and snow storms.

In 2016 Colleen started working for the Village of Granisle as Public Works Supervisor and she continues to work there today.

Colleen leads by example and always encourages young women to pursue a career in public works. At present Colleen has a work crew of four of which two are women. Over the years she has worked with numerous female employees. Colleen is well known to encourage all her employees both male and female to continually learn and improve themselves to enable them to advance in their careers.

Colleen has worked in the Municipal Public Works field for 30 years. It is believed that she is one of the first women to achieve this high of a managerial position in public works and most likely the woman with the longest number of years in the public works field in BC (maybe even Canada). Colleen is highly respected by both male and female coworkers and employees. Colleen is a natural role model to all young women always supporting them in their career paths with Public Works.

### REFERENCES for Colleen Ettinger: (ATTACHED)

Michael D. Glavin –District of Houston

Sharon Smith/Brenda Andersson –Village of Granisle

Thomas Wunderlin –Wunderlin Contracting



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## *District of Houston*

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July 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Colleen Ettinger was employed with the District of Houston from July 1991 to March 2014. During her employment with the District, Colleen worked through the organization from part-time Animal Control Officer to Municipal Worker II to Superintendant of Public Works.

In March of 2006 Colleen was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works, this position reflected Colleen's ability to analyze complex issues and provide solutions which were both efficient and effective. Colleen's ability to work with the public and staff proved to be an invaluable asset to the organization. During her employment with the District Colleen has earned the admiration of both colleagues and Council. This was evident by the fact that Council presented Colleen, on a number of occasions, letters of commendation for exemplary work performed during difficult times.

During Colleen's twenty three years with the organization, there were a number of occasions where senior management vacancies occurred and Colleen was asked to take on additional roles. Colleen never complained and always completed the task assigned to her with professionalism and efficiency.

Colleen's leadership skills and her ability to assess work assignments in the Public Works Department was another one of her assets. Her knowledge of the District infrastructure was invaluable and these abilities provided her with the ability to assign tasks and work within the budget in the Public Works Department.

In 2009 Colleen was promoted to Superintendant of Public Works, it was at this time that I had the privilege to be her direct supervisor. During this period I came to respect and appreciate Colleen's abilities, work ethics and compassion for her job and community, it is for these reasons that I do not hesitate to provide this letter of reference.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Glavin

Chief Administrative Officer

August 7, 2019

Public Works Association of British Columbia

**RE: Candidate: Colleen Ettinger**

The purpose of this letter is provide a profile of Colleen Ettinger's work as Supervisor for Public Works for the Village of Granisle.

Colleen began working for the municipality in August of 2016 and has proven herself to an invaluable asset to the Village.

Colleen has the distinction of working with an all-female Senior Management Team. As women, we appreciate the skill required to manage and mentor in a predominately male environment. As well she is mentoring a female co-worker being trained in water/wastewater operation.

Colleen came to the Village of Granisle with over 23 of experience which made her an excellent choice to head up our Public Works Department. We are a very small community which requires our PW staff to be very versatile, taking on any number of rolls in any given day. Not only does Colleen have strong leadership skills, she is also a first-rate equipment operator. Colleen supports and works besides staff under taking whatever task needs to be completed from snow removal to erecting event tents.

In 2016 the Village of Granisle implemented a Biomass heating system. It is a computerized system that burns bio-fuel. The operation of the system has been challenging with many "kinks" to be worked out. It required a newly learned set of technical and mechanical skills. Colleen has become our in-house expert and has accomplished this with humor and determination.

Colleen is not only an excellent public works employee but also excels in representing women working in Public Works.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely ,



Sharon Smith  
CAO



Brenda Andersson  
Finance Officer



VILLAGE OF GRANISLE

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August 6, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

**An Appreciation of Colleen Ettinger, Public Works Granisle**

As the designer and project manger of the wood chip district heating system in Granisle, I met Colleen – the head of Public Works - in 2016 when the installation was completed and put into operation. To this day she remains the only person who was involved during day one and continues to be involved on a daily basis with the district heating network.

Most aspects of the system – the fully automated boilers, the wood chip extraction augers, the underground piping and all the hydronic heating components were new to Colleen and all the other staff. But Colleen was always eager to learn “new stuff” since organizing a snow clearing schedule might be crucial but it was not necessarily exciting and the new heating system required a substantial amount of new knowledge and experience.

Of course, the Public Works responsibilities in a small community such as Granisle are not only broad and varied but constantly changing since some equipment is bound to fail, break or cause some sort of trouble and the new heating system was no different. Colleen always approached problems with good humour, a large amount of common sense and the skill to make the best of a sometimes difficult situation. It also helps that she knows a large number people who can provide some very specialized skills when required.

Public Works may not be glamorous but it is arguably the most important part of a functioning community since life as we know it comes to a very quick and unpleasant standstill without functioning sewage pipes, water supply, electricity services, road clearing and heat in the winter and in Granisle nobody is more responsible for a functioning community than Colleen Ettinger who does whatever is necessary to keep things running.

Thank you Colleen, it is a pleasure working with you.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Wunderlin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



## District of Houston

**Colleen Ettinger**  
Assistant Director of Public Works

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## District of Houston

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**Colleen Ettinger**  
Public Works Supervisor

THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE OF

# Granisle

















